



# KEYWORDS

JOURNAL FOR THE COMMODORE USERS GROUP OF ST. LOUIS

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## **BOD Meeting**

Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm on February 5, 1997 with six members and one guest present.

Ed Hummel suggested the BOD ask Clara McKlaskey to stand in as interim secretary until we can determine the status of Bill Kimes in that position.

Jason Whitener has written a few news items to promote CUGSL and will attempt to have them placed in area publications.

Possibility of asking Wayne Steinfeldt to put together some gifts which CUGSL would buy to use for the monthly raffles was suggested.

Motion was made by Bill Diamond and seconded by Rich Scheu to purchase a FD2000 3 1/2" disk drive for the December Party/Meeting drawing. Also there will be some consolation prizes to be decided on at a later date.

No decision as to a location for the July meeting has been made.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

*Minutes taken in absence of Secretary by Ed Hummel*

## **February CUGSL Meeting**

Our general meeting began Feb. 13, 1997 at 7:30 p.m. with 17 members and 1 guest, Steve Shel, present.

Wayne Steinfeldt displayed the Pulsar woman's watch which will be awarded at the May meeting. Blue tickets will be sold during our Feb., Mar., Apr., and May meetings for this drawing.

Our treasurer reported an expenditure of \$6.97 for printing of Keywords, and income of \$20.00 for membership and \$21.78 for blank disks, leaving a balance of \$657.34.

Membership: Four delinquent memberships have been deleted leaving a total of 34 members. Richard Scheu has renewed.

Old Business: The Board of Directors are currently acting on recruiting new members.

The following have disks yet to be awarded from the Bingo game at the Christmas Party: Phil Bunch, Bill Keeney, Stan Swoboda, Mary Whorton and Sandy Kimes.

A Swap Meet is still in the discussion stage for July '97. Priorities are for a low cost or no cost location and increased advertising.

New Business: Not having heard from Bill Kimes, Clara McClaskey will take notes of our meeting.

Frank Thompson reported that Al Conrow has experienced quadruple bypass surgery. We all wish him a fast recovery.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Pat Diamond on January 24. She has been very supportive of the Club and will be missed.

A video demo of the Novaterm 9.6 (rated TV-G) has been created by Bob Small and Walt Smith and was presented. We all rate it a BIG 10.

The DOM for Feb. '97 is #D 198 and contains a loading file, GEOs files for converting "used" GEOs software, how to convert GEOs programs for BBS use, Archive dissolver, message reader for BBS, how to customize the boot file for Qwkie 3.1, a Blackjack game and a quick Koala picture display.

The February raffle prizes were won by Ed Dawes - a radio and Floyd Kimmel - a motorized backrest.

The program Novaterm 9.6 is still available to CUGSL members at a cost of \$15.00.

The meeting ended promptly at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Clara McClaskey*

## **FAQ** (Frequently Asked Questions)

What is the difference between PETSCII and ASCII?

(Note that the Amiga line of computers uses the ISO 8859-1 character set, so this does not apply to Amiga computers)



When Commodore designed the PET line of computers, they chose for the character set encoding a special encoding called PETSCII.

This set is similar but not the same as the American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII).

Now, this does not cause any problem when transferring information between or among Commodore computers (except the Amiga, which I believe uses ASCII), but causes problems when exchanging information with other computer types.

The obvious solution is for all Commodore users to translate incoming information into PETSCII from ASCII when talking to another type of computer.

However, this effectively ruins binary files, which have no concept of character codes.

Therefore, the rules are:

Do not translate when exchanging binary files with any computer.

Translate all textual information exchanged with non Commodore computers.

Translate textual information exchanged with Commodore computers only if they are translating it as well.

If a text file you retrieve looks like the uppercase letters should be lowercase and vice versa, then the file is in ASCII and needs to be converted to PETSCII.



## **SIG News**

The January BASICs/Graphics was a discussion and demonstration on using the CUGSL BBS.

Ed Hummel went through the steps involved in obtaining a number and a password as a new BBS user.

He then explained the method of accessing the BBS and taking advantage of the many files available to the members of CUGSL.

These files consist of hundreds of Utilities, Graphics, Games, and Music for the C=64 and C=128. There are also files for Plus 4 and Amiga programs.

The BBS gives you the opportunity to send and receive messages to others who have access. And if you have something to say about CUGSL or an opinion to express there is an area to do just that.

So if you already have a modem the cost is nothing and using Novaterm 9.6 makes it very easy.

February meeting was a review and discussion of setting the configuration for Novaterm 9.6 by Ed Hummel.

Joe McDevitt followed with a demo on the difference between Doodle and Koala graphics and how to use the Koala pad and graphics cartridge to make designs and/or pictures and how easy it is to use the graphics tools in the program.

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## **Medical Up-Date**

Al Conrow recently underwent quadruple by-pass surgery. Al is home and says he feels better each day.

Al is a long time active member of The Commodore Users Group and is our resident Plus 4 expert.

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WE have been informed that Bill Kimes has decided he will be unable to fulfill his job as CUGSL Secretary for the coming year.

As of March 6, 1997 Clara McClaskey will become a member of the Board of Directors and Secretary for 1997.

# Turbo232

## HIGH SPEED MODEM INTERFACE

### New Version of SwiftLink

CMD has recently announced that they will discontinue SwiftLink-232, replacing it with their new Turbo232 modem interface. Turbo232 provides backward-compatibility with SwiftLink, but further enhances the ability to use modern modems by adding three new high-speed modes of 57.6Kbps, 115.2Kbps and 230Kbps. Turbo232 is slated for release by mid-January for \$39.95 retail.

On Usenet, Doug Cotton mentioned

"Basically, it replaces the SwiftLink in our product line. It adds 57.6K, 115.2K and 230.4K speed modes, but also remains fully backward-compatible with SwiftLink. We also got rid of all the various circuit board mods that SwiftLink had for special configuration, and moved these to a set of jumpers. Finally, it has a reduced memory footprint to improve compatibility with GEORAM and similar devices."

In other CMD news, CMD notes that some HD drives using mechanisms with 1 GB (or more) of storage may have problems that can cause data corruption.

This problem has been corrected with v1.92 of HD-DOS and v2.78 of the HD Boot ROM. If you have purchased a 1 GB (or larger) drive or drive upgrade directly from CMD, a free upgrade is available by contacting CMD Technical Support at 413-525-0023. All other HD owners may purchase these items at their normal replacement costs from CMD sales. Reprinted with permission from Loadstar Letter #41

### Meetings

CUGSL - 2nd Thursday each month - 7:30PM to 9:00PM - Bridgeton Trails Library on McKelvey Rd. located one block south of St. Charles Rock Road.

Board of Directors - 1st Thursday - same time & location.

BASICs/Graphics SIG - **see box**

Other SIG Groups meet at various times and places. Check with the SIG Leaders.

## Editors Viewpoint



Reading over some older copies of Keywords the other day, I came across an interesting article written by Will Fitzpatrick. All of it is worth reading, which you can do by digging out your February 1992 issue.

It's titled "Evolution, CUGSL and Commodore - A Brief History of Our Growth and Development." I quote the last chapter.

"Looking into the future of CUGSL, Commodore, and even my own computer growth, I can see many things. In the words of that very famous Vulcan of Star Trek fame, it's going to take a lot of hard work and commitment by everyone so that we may "...live long and prosper" as individuals and as a user group. Indeed, without the support, the learning and sharing of knowledge, and the hard work of all the members of our group, the early promises that we saw and explored in the early days as the St. Louis PET Set and later as the Commodore Users Group on St. Louis may not be there for the 'next generation' of CUGSL members and the torch could grow dim. Now is the time to stand up and be counted and volunteer to help with our group, as our future never looked more promising. Our regrowth that started this last year continues with new members popping up at every meeting, and some have even been nominated to the Board of Directors to join those of us who have held the reins for awhile. New directions and new experiences await us because WE (all of us) are the Commodore Users Group of St. Louis."

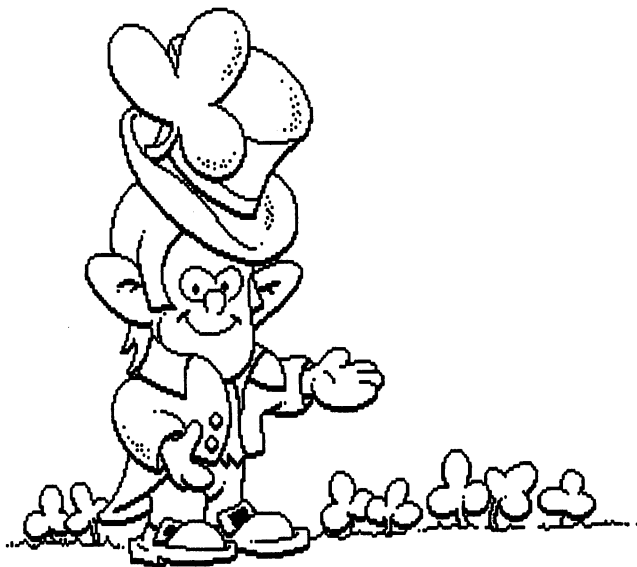
BASIC's/Graphics SIG  
Wednesday March 26, 1997  
7:00 to 9:00 PM  
Bridgeton Trails Library

# **The Commodore Users Group of St. Louis**

P.O. Box 837  
Bridgeton, MO 63044

## **Is it time to renew?**

**If your address label  
shows the current month and year  
your membership expires  
this month.**



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